United Nations S/2004/452

Security Council

Distr.: General
3 June 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 3 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit the attached press release, which was issued by the Government of Rwanda today concerning the fighting in Bukavu, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex).

We request that the present letter and the press release be circulated to all members of the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-37507 (E) 040604

Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press Release

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda is gravely concerned by the recent events in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the town of Bukavu.

The Government is concerned that the insecurity in Bukavu should not spill over to Rwanda's territory. For this reason, the Government:

1. Expresses its concern at statements by President Joseph Kabila directly implicating the Republic of Rwanda in the fighting in Bukavu, despite his repeated messages to Rwanda, some directly, others through his envoys, that the problem in Bukavu was an internal Congolese matter.

2. Reiterates the fact that there are no Rwandan troops present in Bukavu or elsewhere in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

3. Takes note of the open threat the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made against the Republic of Rwanda; believes that such statements and threats contribute little to the resolution of the conflict and are detrimental to the normalization of relations between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is a prerequisite to lasting peace and security in the region; and further recommends that those in the international community who lend an ear to or encourage bellicose statements from some Congolese players refrain from this course of action in the interest of regional peace.

4. Calls upon all the Congolese forces to respect the territorial integrity of the Republic of Rwanda.

5. Believes that the problem in Bukavu is an internal Congolese matter and urges that a speedy resolution to the insecurity be found.

6. Urges all sides to respect and jealously guard civilian life and property.

7. Requests that all Congolese forces involved in the events in Bukavu act in a manner that supports the transition process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which constitutes the best and only framework available to bring peace, security and stability to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

8. Calls upon the international community and the regional leaders concerned to revive and make effective the verification mechanisms provided for under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and subsequent agreements between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda; and believes that credible and effective verification mechanisms are essential for regional peace and security.

9. Calls upon the international community to urgently come to the assistance of the refugees present on Rwanda's territory as a result of the fighting in Bukavu.

Done in Kigali, 3 June 2004